

airstrikes pursued targets in a country that, unless policies change, will remain a terrorist safe haven for years to come.

None of what we are seeing in Somalia today should come as a surprise. Last fall, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles was loudly proclaiming his intention to go into Somalia. In my own meeting with Meles in early December, he told me exactly what he intended to do. He would enter Somalia, he would teach the Islamic courts a lesson, and he would withdraw. Ethiopia, he told me, had neither the capability nor the desire to engage in nation building. I asked him about the instability that might ensue and warned him against an invasion. The lessons from Iraq were perhaps inevitable and we discussed them. Yet Meles was committed to a strike against the Islamic courts, regardless of what would follow. In other words, quick military action was, from his perspective, in Ethiopia's national interests, even without an adequate international political framework or a robust peacekeeping capability.

That does not mean, however, that this was in America's national interests. I do not know if the Ethiopian incursion would have occurred if the United States had sought to stop it. I do know that the ruins left behind by this incursion were foreseeable and there was no excuse for the United States and the international community to have been caught so shamefully unprepared.

As I warned in January, even after the incursion there was a brief window of opportunity to bring some stability to Somalia. That window may have now closed. Still, we have no choice but to do what we should have been doing all along. It is in our interest to increase support for the peacekeepers who are currently being asked to police a state of chaos. It is in our interest to identify economic resources that could be used for development in Somalia and as an incentive for stability and representative government. And it is in our interest to promote a broad, international framework for stability in Somalia. It is not acceptable for the Transitional Federal Government to resist the tough political choices—including the inclusion of rival factions and clans—necessary to establish an effective national government that is seen as credible and legitimate by its own people as well as the international community. It is the Somalis who suffer when there is no representative government, and it is the terrorists who benefit. And it is irresponsible for other countries in the region to pursue their separate, conflicting agendas in Somalia rather than contribute to a sustainable compromise.

The stabilization and reconstruction of Somalia will not happen without a real commitment of attention and political capital from the United States. We must appoint a Special Envoy to work fulltime on Somalia and the Horn of Africa. The ambassadors in the region all have their own host countries

to worry about every day. And it is not an option for the Secretary of State to be "in the lead on our Somalia policy," as the Assistant Secretary stated in February. Such unfocused leadership results in precisely the kind of sporadic response to events in Somalia that has so utterly failed us.

Last week, the violence in Mogadishu took a grisly and familiar turn: the dragging and mutilating of bodies through the streets. It was these kinds of images that helped prompt the United States to turn away from Somalia 15 years ago. But, as we learned in Nairobi and Tanzania in 1998, when we turn away from Somalia, we invite disaster. That does not mean that there was a military solution in 1993—certainly, the poorly defined U.S. military mission in Somalia 14 years ago was not a solution. Nor does it mean that there is a military solution now. Airstrikes can never, by themselves, dry up a terrorist safe haven, nor can they bring to power a stable government with which we can work to pursue our mutual interests.

Yet all too often, military options are all we consider, all we plan for, and all we devote resources to. High-level diplomacy has been neglected. Economic investments have been short-changed. And, worst of all, those who are supposed to be leaders on this issue have already gotten distracted.

We cannot afford to let history repeat itself. If we do not act, conditions will continue to deteriorate. Civilians will die. Extremists who offer the promise of a modicum of security will not only emerge, but will be welcomed by a population desperate for some peace. Terrorist networks will thrive. And plots against the United States will be hatched.

The longer we continue to neglect Somalia, the longer we potentially undermine our own national security.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### A TRIBUTE TO DOUG BYRNE

• Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the service and sacrifice of Officer Doug Byrne.

My wife Joan and I were deeply saddened to hear of the senseless death of Officer Doug Byrne while in the line of duty March 26, in Aurora, CO, responding to a man dying of a seizure.

It takes a person of great conviction and courage to become an officer of the law. It takes a commitment to community, hard work, and patience. Officer Doug Byrne possessed these very qualities. And unfortunately, Officer Doug Byrne paid the ultimate price.

Officer Doug Byrne was the 5th Aurora police officer to be killed in the line of duty. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, more than 17,500 officers have been killed nationwide since 1792, including 236 in Colorado.

Doug Byrne was the second Aurora officer to be killed in the past 6

months. Aurora Police Detective Mike Thomas made his ultimate sacrifice last September.

A native of Aurora at 37 years of age, Doug joined the Aurora Police Department in 2004, and was known for his dedication to his profession. He served as a field training officer for recruits new to the force. From 1998–2004, Doug served the City of Glendale, CO, Police Department. There he distinguished himself by receiving the medal of valor by rescuing distraught tenants in an apartment complex fire. Officer Doug Byrne is someone who knows what service to country is as well. Doug served his country as a U.S. Marine in the Persian Gulf War during the liberation of Kuwait. Doug was a graduate of Gateway High School in Aurora.

The City of Aurora will forever be grateful for Officer Doug Byrne's service and dedication to the safety and well-being of others, and his contributions will be remembered.

Officer Byrne is survived by his parents. Doug had many friends and will be deeply missed.

I extend my deepest sympathy to the family of Officer Doug Byrne. May his bravery and unwavering sense of duty serve as a role model for the future generation of law officers.

Thank you for your service, Officer Byrne. Rest in peace, Sir. End of watch: Monday, March 26, 2007.●

##### TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES WILLIAMS

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I wish to speak today on behalf of the Tuskegee Airman; specifically, I would like to speak about Dr. James Williams, a Tuskegee Airman, renowned physician, and one of my Las Cruces constituents. He has lived a fascinating life and I think that the following story truly exemplifies why he is deserving of a Congressional Gold Medal.

As a World War II-era first lieutenant in the Army Air Corps, Dr. Williams was put into a terribly difficult situation when he refused a superior White officer's order to sign a base regulation. The effect of this regulation would have been to keep Black officers from entering the White officers' club, tennis courts, and pool. He rightly recognized that a segregated Army was not one that would be able to fight wars together. Because of this act of disobedience, he and 100 other Black officers were sent to Godman Field, KY, where they were met by 75 armed MPs. Held under house arrest at Godman, some there felt that they were being more closely watched than the German POWs being housed there.

Thankfully, the house arrest only lasted for 5 days before the Black officers were able to show that the White officers looking to keep the base facilities segregated were failing to follow Army regulations. They were quickly released and returned back to Freeman Field. However, a letter of reprimand